

As a viewer of news on one of my local stations - WLOS in Asheville, NC - I have recently been horrified at what I hear daily as editorial comment. Every segment of editorial comment I have seen has been a blatant anti-Kerry statement. Short on facts, but full of venom, I can hardly believe what I am hearing. Is this the news we get in a democracy? All one sided opinion with no time for equal statements from the other side? This station is definitely not using its news to serve the public interests, but to spew hatred and present a one sided agenda. As such, it does not deserve to have its license renewed. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.